

Volume 3, Issue 10

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Family Support Center

440th Airlift Wing News

**Information for
friends and family
of activated
members.**

This Month's Topics

❑ **BRAC Update**
❑ **Things to Do...**

❑ **Ways to Conserve Fuel**
❑ **Partnering with Your Child's
School**

BRAC Update



The following is reprinted from an email that Col Merle Hart, 440th AW Commander, sent to all military personnel at General Mitchell Air Reserve Station:

What we know:

The 440AW remained on the BRAC list. The 440AW HQ, Operations and Support are to be realigned at Pope AFB NC. Pope AFB NC is going to be changed from an Air Force Base and given to the Army.

What we do NOT know:

1. **IF** the BRAC proposal will be approved (by Congress) as presented.
2. **WHEN** (if approved) will the 440th be tasked to move
3. **WHAT** unit designation and the composition of the unit at Pope will be.
4. **HOW** this will affect our individual positions

I will be forthright with all pertinent information concerning the 440th in the BRAC process. Once the process is completed we will receive guidance on how to proceed. Do not expect the implementation plan to be presented prior to the BRAC proposal becoming law.

What I want:

1. For you to remain focused on what we are about! The 440AW remains a vital part of the defense of the United States. We are as valuable and needed today as much as we were a year ago. Business remains busy, the 440th continues to deploy around the world.
2. Continue to work hard and SAFE. The 440th is known for excellence and we will maintain that standard.
3. Trust the system. You will not be left without options.
4. For you not to panic and run to another base. We could be here for a few more years before we are to move. If the 440th moves to Pope I will need you folks to set up operations there. I fully understand most will not transfer and will work those issues and find jobs or options once we have a time line and a plan of action.

I wish the BRAC process was complete and we knew exactly what was to occur. Anymore comments on my part would be conjecture. This is a stressful time for all. Continue to do what you do best, exceptional service to our Air Force and our nation. I am extremely proud of the 440th and what we do everyday.

When I find out anything on our circumstance I WILL let you know.

Remain safe, stay proud and all will work well. I sincerely believe all things work for good. It is tough at times to accept, but I do believe it.

You are an exceptional group of folks. I am most proud of you.

mdh

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Things to Do ...

Bundles for Babies Workshop:

This program is designed for expectant parents and parents of babies less than 3 months old. Parents will receive information and a "bundle" of gifts such as bedding items, diapers, clothing and an AFAS tote bag. The next session will be on Saturday, December 3 from 9:00 a. m. to Noon.

Heart Link Spouse Orientation:

The next Heart Link program will be held on Saturday, November 6 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Heritage Hall in the Wing HQs building. Attendees will hear presentations from Personnel, Finance, Services, Public Affairs, AAFES, Legal and Family Support. Attendees are guaranteed to get a lot of information, and have a lot of fun in the process! Lunch will be provided free of charge at the Drop Zone Club.

Please call the Family Support Center at (414) 482-5224 or 1-800-224-2744 for more information or to sign-up for these programs.

We gain strength, and courage, and confidence by each experience in which we really stop to look fear in the face... we must do that which we think we cannot. -- Eleanor Roosevelt

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Ways to Conserve Fuel



Gas prices have hit record highs in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, jumping 40 to 60 cents per gallon in a week. The cost of home heating fuel may go up in the coming months as well. How can you keep your fuel expenses manageable this year? Here are some tips:

Saving money on gasoline —

- **Avoid frequent speeding up and braking.** These lower your gas mileage by 33% at highway speeds and 5% at lower speeds.
- **Observe the speed limit.** Gas mileage decreases sharply at higher speeds. Every 5 mph that you drive over 60 is equivalent to paying an extra 15 cents per gallon for gas, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.
- **Use the right kind of oil for your car.** A government study found that you may be able to increase fuel economy 1 to 2% by using the proper kind of motor oil and additives that cut down on friction.
- **Carpool and use public transportation to save on gas.**
- **Comparison-shop for gas prices.** Gas prices may vary by as much as 20% in a few blocks. Visit sites like www.gasbuddy.com and www.gaspricewatch.com to find the best prices in your area. Remember that these sites may have incomplete information when prices are changing fast.
- **Travel light.** Remove unnecessary items from your trunk and roof rack, especially heavy ones. A loaded roof rack alone can reduce your fuel economy by 5%.

Saving money on home heating fuel —

- **Get into the habit of turning down your thermostat at a certain time each night.**
- **Inspect your home for holes and cracks leading to the outside.** You may be able to save 10 percent or more on your energy costs just by fixing all the leaks.
- **Ask your landlord to make your home energy-efficient if you live in a rented house or apartment.**
- **Call your fuel provider and see if you can get a free energy audit of your home.** Go to <http://hes.lbl.gov> if your fuel company doesn't do home energy audits.
- **Spread the monthly cost of some heating bills by using a budget plan or an "off-peak" plan.**
- **Consider replacing inefficient furnaces or windows with better ones.** Some of these improvements can qualify for tax deductions and some local utility companies will also provide subsidies or low-cost loans for the purchase of these upgrades.
- **Keep your furnace filter clean.** A dirty filter can increase overall heating costs.

<information from www.militaryonesource.com>

Partnering with Your Child's School



How can you help your child succeed in the coming school year? Think of yourself as a partner to all the people who want to help -- the teachers, the principal, and any other staff members who are involved with your child's education.

The Importance of Getting Involved: You might think it's the teacher's job to make sure your child learns. But studies show that children get extra benefits when their parents are involved in their education. When parents work closely with schools, children get better grades, have better attendance, and develop a better attitude toward schoolwork.

Providing Support at Home: Your partnership with your child's school begins at home. Make sure your child has a quiet place to study, a regular time for homework, and the school supplies he needs to do his work. Show an interest in what he learns every day. Ask questions about his teachers, schoolwork, and activities.

Staying in Touch with the School: At the start of each school year, find out how the teacher wants you to keep in touch. Should you call, send e-mail, or write notes? Meet with your child's teacher as soon as you can and ask how you can help your child learn. Be sure to bring up any questions or concerns you have about your child or school policies.

Helping in the Classroom and Elsewhere: You can strengthen your partnership with your child's school by volunteering in her classroom. If your work schedule doesn't permit this, think about your skills and how they could help the school. If you love to sew or to work with wood, maybe you could make costumes or build sets for a play. Maybe you can collect and tally coupons or sales receipts for your child's classroom fundraiser. This will show the school that you care about and support your child's education. It also sends a strong message to your child that her school is important to you and you will do everything you can to help her succeed there.

<information from www.militaryonesource.com>

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NOTE: The public website for General Mitchell Air Reserve Station is at

<http://www.afrc.af.mil/440AW>

This site has information about the base and its mission. It also has links to offices such as Family Support and access to current and past issues of "*The Flying Badger*".

Family Support Center: (414) 482-5424 or 1-800-224-2744

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